

the Energy to Lead

### **Fuel Quality Critical Issues**

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October 16, 2014



### **Industry Need/Business Value**

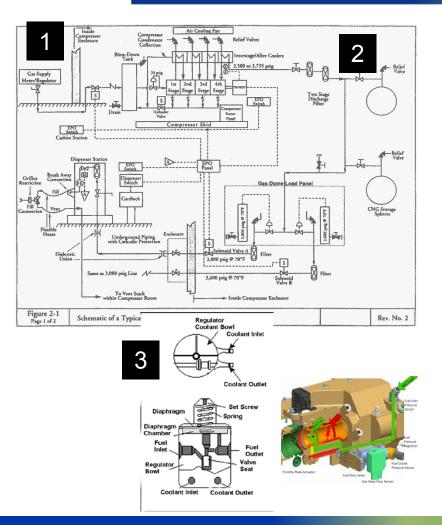
- > Critical time for natural gas in transportation market; transitioning to high-volume users
- > Stakes are higher; downtime in large fleets is not accepted
- > Large fleets and station providers have some serious concerns; costing them millions of dollars in revenue:
  - >5,500 NGVs, largest commercial CNG fleet in US
  - ~150 Class 6-8 NGVs; Champion for Long-haul CNG trucks
  - A key supplier to light-duty market
  - Large supplier of HD engines
  - Significant supplier of on-board fuel systems
  - Primary station owner/operator



# **Heavy Hydrocarbons (HHCs)**

- New make-up of gas supply along with typical fuel quality concerns lead to possible misperceptions (NGLs, Oil carryover, moisture, etc.)
- > Filtration of heavy hydrocarbons (HHCs) in the station and vehicle is difficult especially in vapor phase
- > Accurate method to capture and analyze (HHCs) is difficult
  - No ASME or ASTM method for quantifying oil in gas sample
  - HHCs "drop-out" of gas when taking samples
  - Analysis often performed on liquids from station & vehicle filters
- > Lack of testing protocol leads to inconsistent/misleading results and "finger pointing" between fleet, vehicle supplier, station provider, and utility

### **NGV Station & Vehicle Systems**



#### 1: Station Supply.

What is the incoming gas quality?

#### 2: Station Post-Compression.

What is gas temperature going into the oil filters? How much oil/liquids are going into the filters? Is the liquid collected oil and/or NGLs? How much oil/liquids is passing through as vapor/aerosols? What options to increase capture efficiency (e.g., adsorbents, lower temperature)?

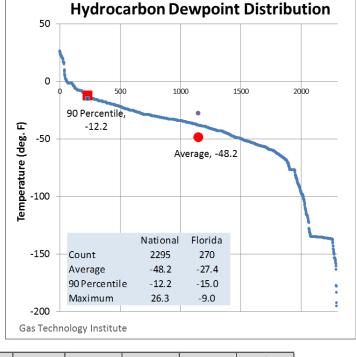
#### 3: Vehicle Post-Pressure Regulation.

What is gas temperature at the vehicle regulator outlet? How much oil/liquids are going in to the filters (e.g., lb/MMSCF)? Is the liquid collected oil and/or NGLs? Can the outlet temperature be raised? What options to increase capture efficiency (e.g., adsorbents)?



### **National Data**

- > Comprehensive survey has not been conducted since GTI/GRI in 1992
- > Limited recent 2013 assessments by GTI
- > Data show reasonably low hydrocarbon dew points
  - Average: -48°F (2295 measurements)
  - 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile: -12°F
  - Maximum: 26°F



gti	Number	Number of						Higher Heating Value	Specific	Wobbe Number	Hydro- carbon Dew
	of Sites	Samples	Methane	Ethane	Propane	N2	CO2	(BTU/scf)	Gravity	(BTU/scf)	Point (°F)
2013 Survey Average	23	4551	95.27	2.793	0.2941	0.582	0.864	1030.7	0.586	1344.6	-41.1
1992 Survey Average	41	6811	92.95	3.210	0.6636	1.803	0.845	1027.9	0.599	1328.8	
Change			2.32	-0.416	-0.369	-1.221	0.020	2.8	-0.013	15.9	



# **Station Post-**Compression

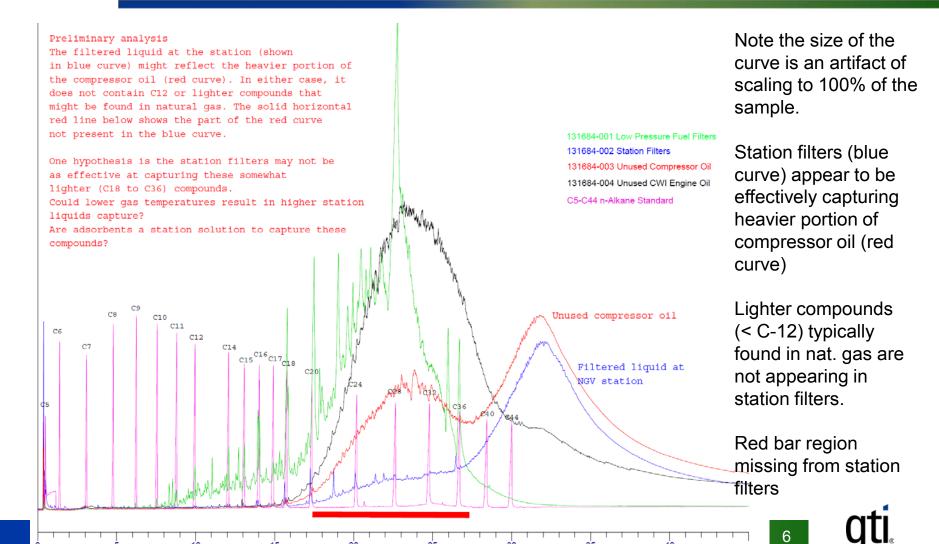
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What options to increase capture efficiency (e.g., adsorbents, lower temperature)?

Time (min)



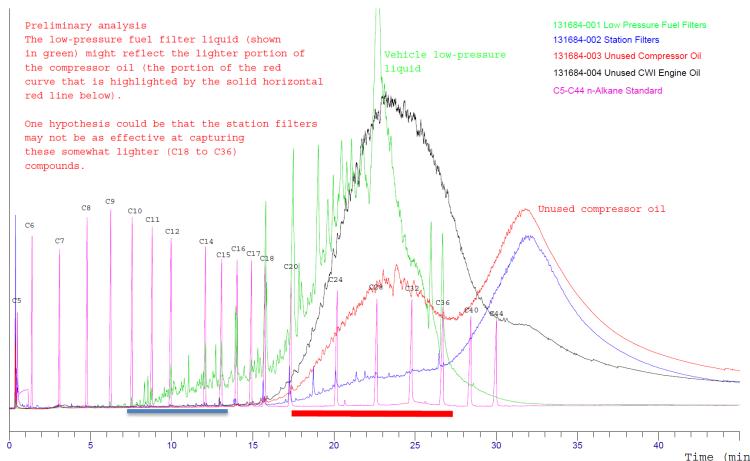
# Vehicle Post-Pressure Regulation

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The vehicle filter (green curve) appears to reflect a portion of compressor oil curve – the difference between the red and blue curves (red bar zone).

Note the size of the green curve is an artifact of scaling to 100% of the sample.

There may be C10-C15 compounds that may be from natural gas (blue bar zone), but they are small portion of the vehicle

3: Vehicle Post-Pressure Regulation.

## **Example Regulator Testing**

#### Coolant Thermal Input is a Significant Parameter

# Very cold temperatures are possible due to gas expansion cooling effects

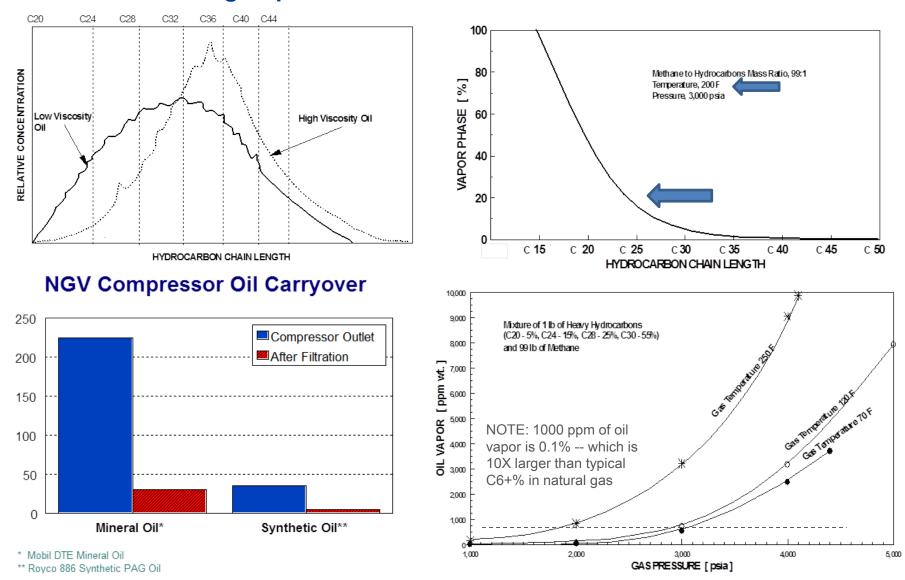
- > 60F Ambient
- Flow rates synonymous w/HD engine
- ➤ 3000psig tank pressure and 110psig regulator outlet
- Gas temp at outlet of regulator: -40 to -60F

# Effective regulator heat input can help mitigate cold temperatures

- ➤ 180F engine coolant to preheat gas
- Gas temp at outlet of regulator: +30 to +40F



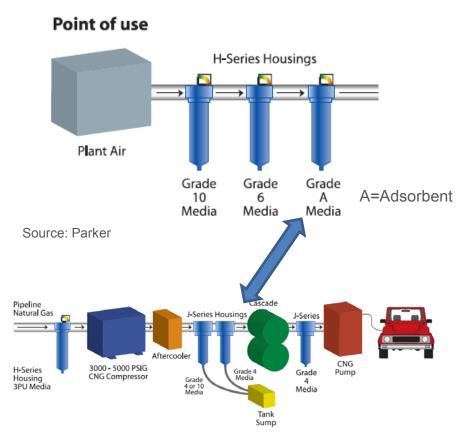
#### **Prior GTI Oil Testing Report**



Parameters to increase oil capture: (1) synthetic oil, (2) higher viscosity, (3) lower coalescing filter temperature

# Solid Adsorbents, Other Removal Options

- Adsorbents or other
   options may be feasible
   to remove trace oil
   levels or very heavy
   hydrocarbons
- Likely most effectively applied at fuel station
- Sizing, monitoring, cost,
   and service issues TBD





Type 10JWA

Vapor adsorbing filter element consisting of a grade 10 microfiber tube, strengthened by a perforated metal retainer and then filled with activated alumina, which works as a desiccant dryer, making the air clean and dry as it exits. This element should always be preceded by a coalescing filter.

For use with:

• J-Series (5000 PSIG)

This filter concept serves as a framework for consideration.
Capacity needs to be assessed.



### **HHCs Issue Summary**

- > Only limited recent national gas composition survey data is available. Results to date do not indicate any significant negative shifts since prior 1992 survey
- > Preliminary (and limited) testing of liquids seems to indicate:
  - The heavier portion of compressor oil is being removed at the station effectively
  - Some lighter portion of comp. oil appears to be showing up in the low-pressure vehicle regulator
- > Options to improve station compressor oil/heavy hydrocarbon capture:
  - Using synthetic oil, using higher viscosity oils, lower temperature during filtration, adding an adsorbent or similar add-on device downstream of the coalescing filter
- > Options to avoid liquids forming downstream of vehicle pressure regulator:
  - Increase heat transfer into regulator to boost gas temperature to avoid condensation; add-on device using solid adsorbent downstream of coalescing filter
- > GTI's Analytical Lab is available to help



## Natural Gas Vehicle Fuel Standard (?)

#### >Current Status

- > SAE J1616 "Recommended Practice for Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Fuel"
- > Last revised in 1992
- There is no standard for natural gas vehicle fuel in the US or Canada
- > Natural Gas is "natural", it is not a "refined" product

- >SAE J1616 Task Force Creation
  - March 2014, NFPA 52 "Committee on Vehicular Natural Gas Fuel Systems Code" met in Atlanta
  - > Committee voted to reduce water content in CNG
  - > Committee requested SAE TC #7 issue a new CNG Fuel Standard rather than a Recommended Practice
  - > SAE J1616 Task Force created- Bob Petsinger CNG Services International - Chair

- >SAE J1616 -Technical topics addressed in the document (Section 4)
  - > Methane Number
  - > Wobbe Index
  - > Pressure Water Dew Point Temperature
  - > Hydrogen Sulfide
  - > Carbon Dioxide
  - > Methanol Prohibition

- > Oxygen Concentration
- > Natural Gas Odorant
- > Particulate and Foreign Material
- > Oil Content
- > Pressure Hydrocarbon Dew Point Temperature



### >Challenges

- > Natural gas supply varies regionally and seasonally
- > Gas composition changes day to day
- Varying manufacturer/engine specifications lead to varying requirements
- Station providers "typically" address water and compressor oil carryover but not other natural gas properties
- Instrumentation for full speciation are complex



#### >Status

- Task Force has met several times throughout Summer and Fall 2014
- Discussions on technical topics (Section 4) has led to creation of smaller working groups
- SAE TC7 Committee for balloting this year

## **Closing Thoughts**

- Important to 1) cylinder integrity, and 2) Vehicle Fuel System and Engine Performance
- >Practicality of a NGV Fuel Standard (?)
  - > Where does compliance responsibility fall?
  - > What frequency shall quality be verified?
  - > Are reasonable methods for measurement or monitoring available?
  - Should we focus on the constituents that can be managed at the station (Comp. Oil, HHCs, Moisture)?